

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 01812 311702Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-08 OMB-01 /085 W
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R 311458Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1184
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EG, PINT
SUBJECT: PRIMIN BLAMES LOCAL COMMUNISTS, MUNI AL-DIN REPLIES

REF: CAIRO 1558

1. PRIMIN SALIM MADE FORMAL STATEMENTS JAN 29 AND 30 TO PEOPLES
ASSEMBLY ON RECENT RIOTING. FOR FIRST TIME, HE LINKED
OFFICIAL LEFTIST PARTY, HEADED BY WELL-KNOWN
MARXIST KHALID MUHI AL-DIN, WITH INCITEMENT OF DEMONSTRATIONS.
"I DEEPLY REGRET TO SAY THAT PROGRESSIVE PARTY HAS INVOLVED
ITSELF SO SHAMEFULLY IN THE ABOMINABLE NATIONAL CRIME."

2. SALIM TOLD ASSEMBLY HE COULD DOCUMENT OVERT CONSPIRACY,
INTENT ISOLATE EGYPT FROM OTHER ARABS, REVERSE OPEN DOOR
POLICY AND RETURN EGYPT TO DICTATORSHIP. "LOCAL COMMUNIST
MOVEMENT" EXPLOITED ATMOSPHERE OF FREEDOM DURING OCTOBER
ELECTIONS, AND SINCE THEN HAS ILLEGALLY SOUGHT SET UP
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 01812 311702Z

COMMUNIST REGIME. COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY BEGAN ITS EFFORTS
NOV 11, 1976, WITH ABORTIVE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND SINCE
THEN HAS SOUGHT TO INCITE "RABBLE IN THE STREETS." SAME GROUP
ORGANIZED JAN 18 DEMONSTRATIONS IN CAIRO, ALEXANDRIA AND ELSE-
WHERE.

3. ON ECONOMY, PRIMIN STRESSED THAT ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION IS

"TO REFROM ECONOMIC STRUCTURE FROM ITS FOUNDATION." ECONOMIC CRISIS BEGAN WITH 1967 DEFEAT AND CHIEF TASK CONTINUES TO BE ADJUSTMENT OF THE STATE BUDGET. BOTH EGYPTIAN AND FOREGIN EXPERTS AGREE THAT CONTINUED SUBSIDIES FOR CONSUMER GOODS WILL LEAD EGYPT TO "COMPLETE ECONOMIC PARALYSIS".

4. KHALID MUHI AL-DIN HAS RESPONDED ENERGENTICALLY TO SALIM'S CHARGES BOTH IN WRITTEN STATEMENT TO PEOPLES ASSEMBLY, READ BY SPEAKER MAR'I JAN 30, AND ALSO IN PRESS CONFERENCE TO WHICH HE INVITED LOCAL AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS. KHALID TOLD PRESS THAT SINCE LOCAL PRESS DOES NOT PUBLISH LEFTIST PARTY'S VIEWS ON "RECENT EVENTS", HE WANTED TO BE SURE FOREIGN JOURNALISTS UNDERSTOOD THAT HIS PARTY "DISAGREES COMPLETELY WITH THE POLICY OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT" AND "REJECTS THE ECONOMIC POLICY GOE HAS PURSUED FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS." HE DISMISSED SALIM'S CHARGES AS TOTALLY INCACCURATE. ACCORDING TO AHRAH AT THIS POINT EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS THEN INVERVENED TO "EXPLAIN" TO THEIR FOREIGN COLLEAGUES THAT KHALID IS SEEKING FOIST NONSENSE ON THEM. ASKED WHY HE REJECTS OPEN DOOR KHALID THEN REPORTEDLY SAID ALL EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS SEEK IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW. AHRAH, WITH CONSIDERABLE RELISH, REPORTS THAT FOREIGN JOUNRLIST THEN PICKED UP ENVELOPE FROM KHALID'S DESK MARKED WITH SOVIET EMBASSY STAMP, AND ASKED IF HIM REMARKS WERE INSPIRED BY WHAT HE RECEIVED FROM THE SOVIETS.

5. COMMENT: AS LATE AS JAN 20, WE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY SENIOR GOE OFFICIAL IT NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER OFFICIAL LEFTIST PARTY WAS IMPLICATED IN RIOT (REFTEL). APPARENTLY GOE HAS NOW DECIDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 01812 311702Z

THAT KHALID AND HIS HENCHMEN ARE TO BE OFFICALLY BLAMED. WHAT THIS WILL DO TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S REPORTED DETERMINATION SALVAGE THE FLEDGLING THREE PARTY SYSTEM REMAINS TO BE SEEN. BUT KHALID HIMSELF IS ACTIVELY INSISTING THAT HIS GROUP'S HANDS ARE CLEAN.

6. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE TEXT OF KHALID'S STATEMENT OF INNOCENCE TO PEOPLES ASSEMBLY AS WELL AS AN ACCOUNT OF HIS PRESS CONFERENCE WERE NOT ONLY CARRIED BUT PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN HE MASS CIRCULATION NEWSPAPERS.

7. SALIM'S REMARKS ON THE ECONOMY ARE ANOTHER INDICATION GOE INTENDS REMEDY SUBSIDY PROBLEM. SALIM GAVE NO HINT AS TO HOW HE INTENDS APPROACH THIS ULTRADELICATE ISSUE, BUT HE MADE CLEAR THAT SUBSIDIES MUST BE CUT. TENTITIVELY CONCLUDED THAT THE GRADUALIST "SOAK THE RICH" PACKAGE THAT MUSTAFA KHALIL PREPARED FOR THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN APPROVED (REFTEL). EILTS

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